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CLAIMS

1. A housing for an inflatable restraint system comprising:
a plurality of retainer panels attachable to form a substantially rectangular
retainer body for receipt of a folded inflatable restraint cushion, wherein at least one of
10 said panels includes a plurality of projecting hooks;
a plastic adapter comprising wall portions positionable around the retainer
body, and a flange projecting substantially perpendicular to said wall portions;
wherein at least one of said wall portions includes a plurality of apertures
for receipt of said hooks, said apertures having widths greater than a width of said hooks
15 to allow relative movement therebetween.

2. The housing of claim 1 further comprising a metal reinforcing plate
attached to at least one of said wall portions.

20 3. The housing of claim 2 wherein said adapter is overmolded with said
plate.

4. The housing of claim 1 wherein said adapter comprises five wall portions
defining a substantially rectangular shape with a discontinuous periphery.

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5. An adapter for attaching an airbag retainer to an instrument panel in a
vehicle comprising:

a molded plastic body having a plurality of integral planar wall portions
adapted to attach with a substantially rectangular airbag retainer;

30 a substantially planar flange projecting outwardly from said wall portions,
said flange adapted to attach with a vehicle instrument panel;

wherein said molded plastic body includes a discontinuous periphery.

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5 6. The adapter of claim 5 wherein said plurality of wall portions includes:
 a first side wall having a plurality of apertures formed therein for receipt
 of hooks; and
 a second and a third side wall positioned opposite said first side wall, each
 of said second and third side walls having a least one aperture formed therein for receipt
 10 of hooks.

7. The adapter of claim 6 wherein each of said second and third side walls
 includes a single aperture formed therein.

15 8. The adapter of claim 5 wherein said plurality of wall portions includes:
 a first side wall having a substantially constant height; and
 second and third sidewalls oriented substantially perpendicular to said first
 sidewall and attached at opposite ends thereof, said second and third sidewalls having
 heights decreasing in a direction away from said first sidewall.

20 9. An inflatable restraint system for a motor vehicle comprising:
 a retainer with a plurality of attachable panels and a plurality of
 attachment hooks projecting from at least one of said panels;
 an inflatable restraint device positioned in said retainer;
 25 a gas generator operable to provide an inflation gas to said inflatable
 restraint device;
 an adapter for attaching said retainer to a vehicle instrument panel, said
 adapter comprising a peripheral wall with a plurality of apertures for receipt of said
 hooks, and a flange projecting substantially perpendicular to said peripheral wall.

30 10. The inflatable restraint system of claim 9 wherein said adapter defines a
 portion of a rectangle having a gap formed along one side thereof, said gap facilitating
 flexing of said adapter.

5 11. The inflatable restraint system of claim 9 wherein said adapter comprises:
a first side wall having a plurality of apertures; and
second and third side walls each having at least one aperture.

12. The inflatable restraint system of claim 11 further comprising a metallic
10 reinforcing plate attached along said first side wall, said plate having a plurality of
apertures substantially aligning with the apertures formed in said first side wall.

13. The inflatable restraint system of claim 12 wherein said adapter is formed
having apertures sized such that said adapter is movable relative to said retainer when
15 engaged therewith.

14. An adapter for a vehicle air bag housing comprising:
a first peripheral wall defining an at least partially enclosed cross sectional
area through which an inflating airbag may be projected, said first peripheral wall
20 adapted to engage with mounting members in a vehicle dashboard;
a second peripheral wall depending from said first peripheral wall and
adapted to engage with an airbag housing.

15. The adapter of claim 14 wherein said first peripheral wall is substantially
25 planar and oriented substantially perpendicular to said second peripheral wall.

16. The adapter of claim 15 wherein said first peripheral wall defines a
substantially rectangular cross section.

30 17. The adapter of claim 16 wherein said first peripheral wall comprises a
discontinuous substantially rectangular cross section.

18. The adapter of claim 14 wherein said second peripheral wall defines a
space having a substantially rectangular cross section.

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5 19. The adapter of claim 18 wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a plurality of integral wall portions arranged in a rectangular shape, said second peripheral wall adapted to attach at least partially inside walls of an airbag housing.

20. The adapter of claim 18 wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a
10 discontinuous substantially rectangular cross section.

21. The adapter of claim 18 wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a plurality of integral wall portions arranged in a substantially rectangular fashion.

15 22. The adapter of claim 15 wherein said first peripheral wall defines a plane that slopes relative to said second peripheral wall.

23. The adapter of claim 14 wherein the first peripheral wall extends outwardly relative to the second peripheral wall.
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24. A method of mounting an airbag retainer for an inflatable occupant restraint system in a motor vehicle comprising the steps of:

molding a plastic adapter having a mounting flange and at least one sidewall depending from the flange, wherein the sidewall is adapted to attach with an
25 airbag retainer;

attaching the molded plastic adapter to an airbag retainer for housing a folded airbag;

mounting the airbag retainer in a vehicle via an engagement of the mounting flange with mounting members in an instrument panel in the vehicle.
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25. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of attaching the molded plastic adapter to an airbag retainer comprises flexing the plastic adapter to accommodate the airbag retainer inside a periphery of the sidewall.